(b) the quantum of water required to meet water scarcity in the country;

(c) whether Government have any plans to harness the water flowing surface water to meet the demand for water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is assessed as 1122 BCM. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

The availability of water for the country as whole is considered adequate to meet the present level of demand of water for diverse purposes. However, there are considerable spatial and temporal variations in the availability of water.

With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources as undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial reacharge to ground water and better management practices etc.

Rain water harvesting

946. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started rain water harvesting in Central Government buildings all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Governments for financial assistance to start rain water harvesting in Govenment buildings and particularly from Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Water Resources had requested all Ministries/Departments of Government of India to issue suitable instructions to provide for construction of roof top rain Water harvesting structures in all Government buildings under their control. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has informed that rain water harvesting is being taken up in Central Government buildings under their care and maintenance all over the country subject to the proposal being technically feasible. They have completed work in 182 locations and the work is in progress In 43 locations. The Ministry of Defence, Department of Telecommunications, Department of Posts, Ministry of Railways and National Highways Authority of India have also informed that they have initiated action in this regard and rain water harvesting has already been introduced in a large number of Government buildings.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Need of water harvesting

947. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken note of the suggestion made to make water harvesting mandatory for all States and what steps are being taken to make it a reality; and